



Betatakin Tour Information – 2010

The Route: Betatakin is five miles (8 km) round trip from the trail head, which is located $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Visitor Center. This free hike is strenuous and is guided by a ranger. The trail follows an old road out to Tsegi Point, and then drops steeply on rock switchbacks 700 feet (218 meters) down into the canyon. Once in the canyon, the route then follows the Kayenta Formation, backtracking into the canyon to Betatakin.

Tour Schedule: Betatakin tours are available year-round depending on weather conditions and available staffing. Please call **928-672-2700** to confirm if tours will be given on the day you plan to attend. If you represent a group, please call to let us know and we will accommodate you if we can. The summer season will begin **May 22, 2010** and will end **September 11, 2010**

The Time: Please remember that the Navajo Nation, as well as Navajo National Monument, is on Mountain Daylight Time beginning in March and continuing into November each year. We are one hour ahead of other Arizona locations such as Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Hopi Nation. The Monument, and the Navajo Nation, are on the same time as Utah, Colorado and New Mexico.

The Tour: The tour begins with a trail briefing in front of the Visitor Center. Visitors then drive in their own vehicles, following the ranger to the Betatakin parking area and trail head. The ranger leads visitors down the 2.5 mile trail to the Betatakin site. After the tour is finished, visitors walk back to their vehicles at their own pace. Please stay on designated trails at all times. The ranger is the last person out of the canyon, ensuring that visitors have safely returned. The tour takes three to five hours, round trip. Composting toilets are available at the Betatakin parking lot and at the bottom of the canyon.

The Betatakin hike is moderately difficult. Hikers should be in fair physical condition. People with cardiovascular or joint problems should not take part in the tour. The high altitude of the monument at 7300 feet (2220 M) can make it difficult for those living near sea level. Visitors should wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes and bring two liters of water. Trail snacks and a hiking pole are recommended but are optional. Temperature can be very warm (90 degrees Fahrenheit), with canyon temperatures ten degree warmer than the mesa tops. Summer weather can be quite variable with afternoon thunderstorms, wind, or heat. Please do not underestimate the effects of heat and the need for water.

Fall or winter weather can vary from mild conditions to freezing temperatures, with gusty winds or deep snow. Rock falls hazards exist in the canyons. Rocks can fall within the alcove unexpectedly. Visitors enter the alcove at their own risk.